



09-02-03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND  
TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit: 2665  
Examiner: Michael J. Molinari

15B (NE)  
HCE  
9-16-03  
my 2665

In Re: John K. Renwick et al.  
Case: IBN-0014  
Serial No.: 09/405,237  
Filed: September 23, 1999  
Subject: Apparatus and Method for Forwarding Data on Multiple Label-Switched  
Data Paths

To the Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

SEP 05 2003

Technology Center 2600

Dear Sir:

**Response B**

In the claims:

All of the claims standing for examination are presented below. Claims 1, 9 and 10 are herein amended in the present response, claims 5, 6, 8, 11, 16, 17, 20, 22, 23 and 25 are herein cancelled.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of forwarding packets of data over a network from a source node to a destination node, comprising:

providing a subnetwork within the network having a label-switching network and a plurality of subnetwork nodes connected by a plurality of subnetwork links, the subnetwork nodes including an ingress node and an egress node coupled to the source node and the destination node, respectively, at least one pair of subnetwork nodes being connected by a plurality of subnetwork links, the plurality of subnetwork nodes and the